

Vanity perforators may disappear; but they leave some big holes behind

Can anyone provide any information about these missing perforators

Floyd A. Walker

A few months ago, I started putting together a checklist of known U.S. vanity—or personal, if you prefer—perforators to figure out where the perforators are currently located. I've written a lot of letters and asked a lot of questions, but some of the perforators seem to have disappeared without a trace.

Perhaps you can help.

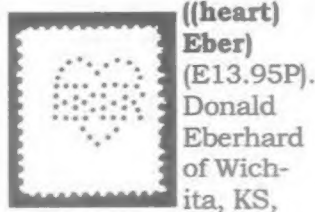
Here's a list of the "lost perforators" with the information I've been able to come up with so far. Can you add to the story of any of them?

ARM (A233.7P). The original owner was Alan R. Miskimin, now deceased. The present location of the perforator is unknown.

CB (C31.5P and C31.5AP). These are the two varieties of Carl Beebe's personal perfin but the present owner of the perforator or perforators is unknown.

COMPEX. This is an illegal vanity perfin that supposedly was never used on stamps that moved through the mail. It is illustrated in the U.S. catalog but not assigned a number. Nobody connected with COMPEX has seen fit to answer my letters.

Indiana(E) (E3.5P). Doug Eglen of Beech Grove, IN, was the original owner but letters to his last known address are returned.



was the original owner but letters to his last known address were not answered.

Ed (E22.5P), **Flag (H)** (H11.5P), **Beaver** (Des52P), **Rose** (Des53P). All of these patterns were created by Edwin Haack, a now-deceased member of the Club. What happened to the perforators? Several people have told me they *think* the perforators wound up in the hands of a Club member, but nobody knows for sure.

EK (E55.5P). Ellen Kupfer of Sun City, CA, is the original owner but attempts to contact her have been unsuccessful.

Compass (G) (G6.5P) and **GA/OTU**



(G27.5IP) are both said to be owned and used by John Cunningham of Washington, DC. Letters to Cunningham have neither been returned nor answered.

HAR RIS (H21.7IP) and **JH** (J55.7P) were owned at one time by Jim Harris, a past president of the Perfins

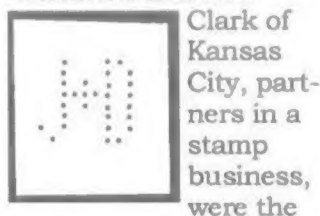
Club, president of the Society of Philatelic



Americans, and major player in the early history of the Club. Does anybody know what happened to the perforators? The **HAR RIS** pattern is a two-headed perforator and the stamps can sometimes appear on separate stamps.

H.N (H126.5P). This is one of the older vanity perfins, owned by Hideaki Nakano of Detroit. Does anybody know anything about the perforator or the owner?

J+D (J27.5P). Jim Hamilton and Don



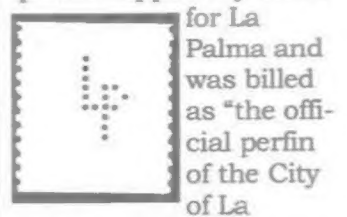
Clark of Kansas City, partners in a stamp business, were the original owners. I helped them get the perforator from Baddeley Brothers, but they seem to have disappeared. Letters to their last known address (a post office box) are not returned but they aren't answered either.

JO/RO (J115P & J115.5P) Jo Ro Jung of New Orleans was once secretary of the Perfins Club and had two varieties of his JO/RO

perfin, but the current location of both perforators remains a mystery.

L(E/R) (L72.5P) Everett R. Liebrich was a very active member of the Perfins Club in the 1970s but his perforator disappeared after he died.

LP (L130.5RP). This perfin supposedly stood



for La Palma and was billed as "the official perfin of the City of La Palma, CA." It was created by former Perfins Club member John Burns from an old bank perforator. It's likely, but uncertain, that the perforator no longer exists.

M(L.R) (M166.5P). L. R. Murray held a number of Club offices over the years. Much of his collection wound up in the hands of Joe Balough, but the location of this perforator remains unknown.

P (P4P). We haven't been able to track down this perforator, used by both Steve Pavilina personally and when he was treasurer of the Western Pennsylvania Precancel Society. It was a homemade perforator and Pavilina says it probably no longer exists.

PF (P80.1P thru P80.5P). Five varieties of the PF perfin were made from a single old bank perforator to help publi-

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Can you help us find out where these perforators are now?

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cize the Perfins Club. The perforator probably was later destroyed or possibly turned into the **LP** (L130.5RP) of La Palma, CA. Does anybody know for sure?

R (R3.5P). We have no idea who used this perfin so we don't even know where to begin the search.

SEP/S (S109.5IP). This perfin stands for Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of Great Britain and was widely used until the organization changed its name to Perfins Society (and got a new PS perfin). We believe the perforator is in the archives of the Perfins Society but we are not at all sure just where those archives are to be found.

SPA (S218.5P). The late Jim Harris, president of the Perfins Club, was also president of the Society of Philatelic Americans before it ceased to exist. Harris helped the SPA acquire this perforator but its current location is unknown.

TCF (T22.5P). Efforts to locate Charles F. Tomala of Pittsburgh, the original user of this perfin, have been unsuccessful.

Trophy (Des46). This started out as a business/vanity perfin for



the Trophy Nut Company. In 1976, the owner of the company sold

me the perforator. The perforator was repaired once after several pins were broken and apparently has changed hands several times since the early 1980s. The present location—and present condition—of the perforator remain unknown.

Christmas Trees (Des 44P and Des44.5P). The first of these Christmas tree patterns was owned and used by L. R. Murray; the second by Joe Balough. It is believed



that Balough acquired the first after Murray's death, but both perforators seem to have disappeared.

Square & Compass (Des48P). This Masonic pattern was created for Ed Walsh of Lexington, MA. When he died, there was a major squabble over his estate. His offices were cleaned out by lawyers and the perforator and his stock of Masonic philately disappeared.

Apples (Des 57P and Des 60P). These two patterns are listed as being used by Michael Collins of Yakima, WA, but ef-

forts to find out anything more about them have been unsuccessful.

It is entirely possible that some of these perforators are currently in the hands of members of the Perfins Club. If that is true, we'd like to know so we can update our records. Confidentiality will be respected if you wish not to have your ownership of the perforator made public knowledge. If you are willing to provide examples of the perfin for your fellow Club members, that, too, would be appreciated.